

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 2 are objected to for containing typographical and grammatical errors.

Claim 1 has been, in part, amended to make it clearer that the second end of the connector is positioned within the interior of the bag and is structured to form at least one notch in the second end of the connector.

Claim 2 been amended to replace the word "so" with the word "no" to correct a typographical error.

Pending claims 1 -- 4 have been rejected under §102 as being anticipated by Oshiyama. Oshiyama discloses a blood reservoir having a connector with a perforated end section and a closed end cap 15a for allowing blood to flow slowly and without much force into the tube, and then through the rest of the system. Oshiyama discloses a plurality of apertures 16 depicted as circular holes within the side of the connector. It is respectfully and strenuously asserted by the Applicant that such circular holes or apertures 16 of Oshiyama are not the equivalent to the claimed and described notch of the present application. Simply put, the holes 16 of Oshiyama are simply not the claimed notch of the present application.

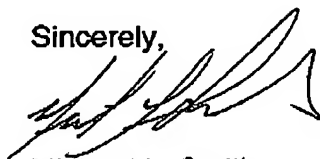
It is respectfully submitted that the holes of Oshiyama would not function properly in the present invention in that as a vacuum is drawn on the collection bag of the present invention, the bag would simply collapse around the holes 16 of Oshiyama and therefore, not provide any space for venting, as is the specific function of the claimed notch of the present application. In addition, Oshiyama has a closed end cap 15a on the connector 15 that would further prevent Oshiyama from functioning properly in the

present invention. The end cap 15a would further allow and encourage the collection bag to collapse around the apertures 16 of Oshiyama.

In order to further distinguish the present application from the prior art and to avoid a lengthy Appeal process, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the connector is connected to a pump cartridge and in addition, that the notch is in the end of the second end of the connector. Oshiyama's holes 16 are along the side of connector 15, not the claimed notch in the end of the connector. The notch being made in the end of the connector ensures that the bag has no flat or continuous curved surface onto which it can collapse and seal-off the bag from the aspiration system. The notch being in the end of the connector prevents the collection bag from sealing off the conduit during surgery so that a sufficient amount of air will remain within the bag to allow a surgeon to air vent an aspiration path during surgery.

None of the cited prior art alone or together teaches or suggests the claimed fitment of amended claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1 – 4 are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is requested at an early date.

Sincerely,



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